



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------	------------------

09/929,610

08/13/2001

Ronald E. Sloan

60021.375802

9691

29838

7590

08/25/2006

OPPENHEIMER WOLFF & DONNELLY, LLP (ACCENTURE)

PLAZA VII, SUITE 3300

45 SOUTH SEVENTH STREET

MINNEAPOLIS, MN 55402-1609

EXAMINER

GREIMEL, JOCELYN

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3693

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/929,610	SLOAN ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jocelyn Greimel	3693	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 August 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>See attachment</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Information Disclosure Statements: 11/18/02, 01/05/04, 02/17/04, 11/24/04, 02/18/05, 08/15/05, 12/13/05, 05/01/06.

DETAILED ACTION

1. This communication is in response to Applicant's application of August 13, 2001, which is a continuation of 09/705,288 and is a continuation in part of 09/431,668 of November 1, 1999. Claims 1-29 are being examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

3. Claims 1-6 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Atkins (US Patent No. 5,875,437). In reference to claims 1, 11 and 20, Atkins discloses a method, system and computer program for developing a long-term financial plan

Art Unit: 3693

comprising: projecting expected yearly income for a period of time; projecting expected yearly expenses for said period of time; and providing at least one of the investment advice for any surplus of income over expenses and financing advice for any deficit of income over expenses.

4. In reference to claims 2, 12 and 21, Atkins discloses the method wherein the user income and expense history resident on external databases can be accessed by the model.

5. In reference to claims 3, 13 and 22, Atkins discloses the method wherein the user can introduce risk events into the model. In reference to claims 4, 14 and 23, Atkins discloses the method wherein the risk event includes at least one of: job loss, disability, casualty, market downturn, theft, fire or collision.

6. In reference to claims 5, 15 and 24, Atkins discloses the method wherein the model predicts and highlights potential cash surplus and cash flow shortage for the user.

7. In reference to claims 6, 16 and 25, Atkins discloses the method wherein the user may receive at least one of customized automated coaching and counseling by a live advisor.

Art Unit: 3693

8. In reference to claims 8-10, 18-19 and 27-29, Atkins discloses the method wherein the financial model displays the aggregate cash flow in the form of a timeline over a defined period of time; wherein each annual point of said timeline can be interactively dragged up and down on its vertical axis; and the financial model recalculates the aggregated cash flow based on the new positions of said annual points.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

11. Claims 7, 17 and 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Atkins as applied to claims 1, 11 and 20 above, and further in view of Leemhuis (US Patent No. 6,470,325). In reference to claims 7, 17 and 26, Atkins discloses a

Art Unit: 3693

method, system and computer program for developing a long-term financial plan. However, Atkins does not disclose a method, financial model and computer program embodied on a computer readable medium wherein access to an automated coaching and a live advisor is based on a service level agreement. Leemhuis discloses a method, financial model and computer program embodied on a computer readable medium wherein access to an automated coaching and a live advisor is based on a service level agreement (col. 2, lines 50-65; col. 4, lines 4-37).

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jocelyn Greimel whose telephone number is (571) 272-3734. The examiner can normally be reached Monday - Friday 8:30 AM - 4:30 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, James Trammell can be reached at (571) 272-6712. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Art Unit: 3693

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Jocelyn Greimel
Examiner, Art Unit 3693
August 8, 2006


ELLA COLBERT
PRIMARY EXAMINER